

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2013, in the Cabinet Room of the John G. Townsend Building, Dover, Delaware.

Present were: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; G. Patrick Heffernan, Randall L. Hughes, II, Barbara B. Rutt, and Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education. Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director, was also present.

Also in attendance were Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education; David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education; Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary for Financial Reform and Resource Management; Mr. Michael Watson, Chief Academic Officer; and Dr. Susan Haberstroh, Associate Secretary, College and Workforce Readiness.

Attending portions of the meeting in conjunction with agenda items: Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent, Caesar Rodney School District, Emily Fitzgerald, Linda Fitzgerald, Sherry Kijowski, Caesar Rodney School District, Cheryl Precourt, Caesar Rodney School District; Kathleen Haynes, Caesar Rodney School District; Ron Gough, Caesar Rodney School District; Kelly Sherretz, University of Delaware IPA, Chris Kelly, University of Delaware IPA; Charlie Michels, Professional Standards Board (PSB); Atnre Alleyne, Diane Donohue, Christopher Ruskowski, Alison Kepner, Mary Kate McLaughlin, John Carwell, Paula Fontello.

Also attending: Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General; Leighann Hinkle, Budget Office; Melissa Hopkins, Rodel Foundation; Frederika Jenner, Delaware State Education Association (DSEA); Jeff Tashner, DSEA; Bob Smith, R.L., Kristin Cosden, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Children, Matt Albright, News Journal; and Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network.

Call to Order

President Gray presided over the monthly meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. She welcomed all guests to the State Board's monthly public meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The first order of business was approval of the agenda. Dr. Gray noted that at the request of the Professional Standards Board, Action Item 5.C.II, PRAXIS I was being withdrawn. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:	Not Present at Time of Vote
Dr. Gray	None.	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Melendez		
Mr. Heffernan		
Mrs. Rutt		

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting- March 21, 2013

The Board received a copy of the regular meeting minutes prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the minutes of the State Board regular meeting held on March 21, 2013 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:	Not Present At Time of Vote
Dr. Gray	None.	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Melendez		
Mr. Heffernan		
Mrs. Rutt		

Formal Public Comment

It was indicated that this was the time the Board set aside for formal public comment. President Gray announced that no individuals signed up to address the State Board.

State Board Business

Committee Reports from State Board Members

Mrs. Rutt attended two meetings of the Gifted and Talented Task Force.

Mr. Heffernan attended the statewide training Common Ground for the Common Core and enjoyed the session with reading expert Tim Shanahan. He highlighted the different disciplines of reading and how it is used in different content areas.

Dr. Gray stated that she also attended the Common Ground for Common Core noting that over 700 were in attendance for the statewide professional development on a Saturday. She extended kudos to the Department on a very successful day.

Ms. Johnson asked the Board members to review the items posted under the Executive Director's report on eBoard. She noted that some of the items are articles and current research on education topics that are in line with the State Board's strategic plan. These articles are also available for viewing by the public.

She reminded the Board members of the workshop the State Board is hosting for local board members, charter board members and education stakeholders. It is scheduled for the April 30th. Panelists have been secured from the National Governor's Association, Council of Chief State School Officers, National Association of State Boards of Education, Achieve and the Hope Street Group. They will be presenting the national perspective and leadership role of boards in policy decisions as the Common Core State Standards are implemented. Examples include school calendars, planning for professional development, selecting textbooks, and curriculum revisions, all of which are local board policy items.

Ms. Johnson attended the kick off for Delaware's Strategic Plan for a Comprehensive Early Childhood System, Sustaining Early Success 2013 for the Early Childhood Council. The P-20 Council will be briefed on the report at its next meeting. Ms. Johnson introduced and recognized Kelley Sherretz from the University of Delaware/Delaware Early Childhood Council for her work on the plan.

Recognition of Delaware's Superintendent of the Year

The State Board of Education and Secretary Murphy recognized Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Caesar Rodney Superintendent as Delaware's Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Fitzgerald was recently honored along with other state superintendents of the year at the National Conference on Education in February, 2013. The National Superintendent of the Year program is in its 26th year and is co-sponsored by AASA, ARAMARK Education and VALIC. It celebrates the contributions and leadership of public school superintendents and pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead the nation's public schools.

Dr. Gray highlighted Dr. Fitzgerald's career which began in Maryland in 1978 as a Social Studies and English teacher to his moving to Delaware becoming Caesar Rodney High School's assistant principal until 1998, then principal until 2007 when he was selected as superintendent. In 2002, he was recognized as Delaware's "Secondary Principal of the Year" and was honored in 2004 and 2008 with the University of Delaware's "Commitment to Educational Excellence Award." In 2006 he was invited to contribute to the book "Best Practices of Award Winning Secondary School Principals."

Dr. Gray presented Dr. Fitzgerald with the State Board's Order of Excellence and Secretary Murphy presented the Secretary's Merit Award. Dr. Fitzgerald also received an imprinted iPad cover from the State Board. Joining Dr. Fitzgerald was his wife, Linda and daughter, Emily. Board members Cheryl Precourt and Kathleen Haynes were also in attendance. Congratulations were extended.

Dual Language Immersion Program

Sherry Kijowski, Principal of Caesar Rodney's J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center along with Superintendent Kevin Fitzgerald, presented the District's Dual Language Immersion Program. Dr. Fitzgerald commented that the staff and teachers at the school have embraced the program as has the community and parents of the students involved. Dr. Kijowski stated that based on research students attain higher levels of language proficiency through immersion and

100 Kindergarten students at McIlvaine are participating in the dual immersion program and learning Chinese. Students spend half of their school day in the target language and the other half of the day receiving instruction in English. Ms. Kijowski described a typical day for the students who joined in the presentation via videoconferencing. The students sang a song in Chinese about April showers. These students in the dual language immersion program are selected through a lottery and the students will continue in the dual immersion program in elementary school. Dr. Fitzgerald indicated that the students will attend Simpson Elementary and Frear Elementary. The district hopes to continue the immersion program through Grade 6 and that by 9th grade students will have been able to take an AP course to receive college credit in Chinese.

Department of Education

TELL Delaware Survey Results

Christopher Ruszkowski and Atnre Alleyne from the Department along with DSEA President Frederika Jenner presented the results of Delaware's first TELL Delaware survey. A part of the Race to the Top (RTTT) plan included the development and implementation of a program for Delaware to survey educators on their opinions on teaching conditions in their schools. TELL Delaware was an anonymous statewide survey of licensed school-based educators to assess teaching conditions at the school, district and state level. The results of the survey showed that 6,153 educators responded or approximately 59.2%. Of those, 5,242 were teachers, 95 were principals, 93 were assistant principals and 611 were other professionals such as counselors, psychologists or social workers. The survey addressed areas such as managing students conduct where 87.8% of the respondents stated they worked in a school environment that is safe and under school leadership, 92% of the respondents felt that teachers are held to high professional standards for delivering instruction. The survey also showed that 84.1% of the respondents felt that teachers are encouraged to participate in school leadership roles. It was noted that "time" was the area of most concern reported by Delaware educators. In the area of community support and involvement, the percentages are high for encouraging parent involvement and communication with the community. The responses were also high for school facilities, professional development and the use of assessment data to inform instruction.

Districts can use their data from the survey to address needs and focus on areas of concern. Mr. Ruszkowski stressed that it is imperative to get this data out and keep this conversation alive. This data will be referenced in many upcoming conversations and will be utilized. Ms. Jenner stated that the best validation would be for educators to see areas of change based on the results of the survey. It is anticipated that another survey would be conducted in two years. Board members suggested including Department staff and local school boards to participate in future surveys to see their perspective. The Board also asked how Delaware's responses vary and compare to other states. Many states are just completing their surveys so results are not yet available. Mr. Ruszkowski stated that in the most recent survey in Maryland, they had a comparable response rate of 62%. Conversations are just beginning at the school and district level to discuss results.

The Board recessed from 10:31 a.m. to 10:43 a.m.

Teacher Supply and Demand Survey

Ms. Johnson noted that the Board received the Preliminary findings of the 2013 Delaware Teacher and Administrator Supply and Demand Survey Analysis Report from the Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware. This is the tenth year the DOE has contracted with the University of Delaware for the report. The report describes trends and perceptions of teacher and administrator hiring in Delaware including late hiring, use of temporary contracts, subject areas where hiring was difficult, and the perceived effects of the economy. Board members were asked to forward any questions on the preliminary findings to Ms. Johnson.

Secretary's Report, Review and Discussion

Secretary Murphy thanked the Board for their partnership with him and the Department. He noted that Board members' attendance at the recent Common Ground for the Common Core professional development day on a Saturday was just an example of their involvement. He noted that the Board's active participation is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Murphy highlighted Secretary Duncan's recent visit to Delaware for the release of the Sustaining Early Success Plan and also visited an early childhood center. He noted the tremendous amount of funds that are being funneled into early learning but stated the Plan will sustain early learning long after the grant.

The next area Secretary Murphy wanted to touch base on was teacher preparation. The State Board plans to attend the presentation later today by the Harvard Strategic Data Project that will share data that shows what we know about our teachers and leaders and how we are preparing our teachers to be ready. Secretary Murphy noted that the Department has launched a competitive grant for institutes of higher education to use funding to build creative approaches to their education programs. Secretary Murphy has spoke to each institution about this grant.

The Board was also briefed on the RTTT funding at the Christina School District. As part of RTTT the district agreed to work on addressing retaining teachers in the highest need schools. The district did not wish to participate in the Department's plan which was fine but needed to submit their plan to address this need. The district has failed to submit a plan that meets the established criteria. The Department is moving forward to withhold year four funding of RTTT which would amount to approximately \$2M. This would change if the district did submit a plan in compliance or join the Department's plan. The Department plan recognizes the highly effective teachers in the highest needs school and offers them a bonus and leadership opportunities. That is the retention side. The attraction side would offer a bonus to highly effective teachers to go and teach at high needs schools. Secretary Murphy noted the changes to the program this year were based on the feedback that was received from teachers and districts. President Gray thanked Secretary Murphy for sharing the facts and information with the Board concerning Christina.

In closing Secretary Murphy brought the Board up to date on some internal team meetings. He distributed the Department's Guiding Behaviors which the entire Department contributed to and were endorsed by Leadership.

Charter Schools

John Carwell, Director of the Charter Schools Office, presented the charter school items.

Modifications – Minor Modification Actions Taken by the Secretary

Applications to Modify an Existing Charter: Sussex Academy of Arts & Sciences (For Information)

The Board of Directors of this school submitted an Application to Modify the school's charter in seeking to change their current name from Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences to Sussex Academy. This modification falls within the range for a minor modification, as defined by 14 DE Admin. Code 275.9.9.1.1. The name change is also more in line with the school adding the additional grade configuration of Grade 9-12. This request was approved by Secretary Murphy.

Applications to Modify an Existing Charter: Reach Academy (For Information)

Ms. Johnson asked about the minor modification for Reach Academy and if it has been decided. The Board did receive information that the Board of Directors of this school submitted an Application to Modify the school's charter seeking to remove their probationary status. Mr. Carwell noted that the modification request is still being reviewed as it was just received.

Status of the Annual Report and the Performance Reviews

The five remaining schools to receive performance reviews have been scheduled – Family Foundations, Newark Charter School, Kuumba, Prestige and Positive Outcomes. The annual report will be completed after these reviews have been conducted.

Mr. Heffernan stated that he was unaware that all the performance reviews were not completed. Mr. Carwell noted that these reviews were paused when the new charter applications were received.

The Board also asked for clarification on what the process would be after the annual report is done and posted on the website. Mr. Heffernan asked that the State Board schedule time to go through the reviews noting that one of the aspects of the performance review is to have a process and not waiting for a modification or its renewal. He asked for a timeframe to insure that this would establish a routine to be followed.

Mr. Carwell stated he would get a draft to share with the Board. Ms. Johnson noted that last July the State Board approved new requirements to Regulation 275 and in September the State Board approved the performance framework. Some of the pieces of operationalizing the process have been slower than expected. The academic framework data has been run but the financial framework data has only been run for 2010-2011 and not for 2011-2012. She stated that the charter office also needs to operationalize the report for the organizational framework. These must be completed in order to complete the performance review picture. She noted that it is

critical that these be in place in the fall so charter schools can also have their performance agreements in place. Ms. Johnson also noted that the Annual Report should be done in January. President Gray asked that the Charter Office provide to the State Board a snapshot of the annual report by its June State Board meeting. The Board wants the accountability and visibility to see how charter schools are performing. Mr. Heffernan commented that the performance framework was a high priority for the Board and the Board takes its charter oversight very seriously.

Update on Progress of New Applications and Modifications

Mr. Carwell stated that eight applications were received. Action by the Board will be divided between the May and June State Board meetings due to the volume of material that has to be reviewed. May will include Delaware Met, First State Military, Design Lab and the modification of Academy of Dover. The June meeting will include Pike Creek, Kuumba, Moyer and MOT. There were comments regarding the information currently on the charter school website regarding these applications and when the additional information would be added for these applicants. Mr. Carwell noted that several meetings were recently held and as those reports and minutes are completed they are added to the website. Ms. Johnson mentioned that the items which make up the record which are not waiting on additional information from the Accountability Committee should be made available as soon as possible given the large volume of material that the Board will need to review in the next two months.

Update on Closure Preparations for Pencader Charter School

Mr. Carwell stated that there have been bi-weekly meetings with the school and have presented procedures for closure. Department staff is working with the school on the student records which will be transferred to the students' new school. The Department along with the Division of Accounting and the Budget Office are monitoring the schools financial situation. A workshop is also planned with Pencader staff to review human resource issues. An email was sent to Pencader families addressing the letter that was sent by the school's president.

Ms. Johnson commented that there would be no action by the State Board today unlike what was printed in the newspaper. The State Board has taken its action which was to revoke its charter. There was discussion by the Board on if the school would be closing its doors on April 30th and what exactly was its budget and financial situation in regarding to its funding. Mr. Carwell noted that the monitoring of the school's finances would include all expenses over a certain amount. Mary Kate McLaughlin, the Department's Chief of State also noted that the Department is helping the school with its financial coding and providing options and solutions to the school. She stated that the students would finish the school year at Pencader. The Board asked about the salaries for the teachers during the summer months. Mr. Carwell reported that the school does not have enough funding for the summer salaries. Deputy Secretary of Education David Blowman highlighted the pay cycle of teachers and noted that ongoing conversations were taking place and the State was exploring options with the school. To reiterate, President Gray commented that the Department is working with Pencader families so students graduate and finish the school year with full credit and the records of students will be transferred and the Department is working with the school on the teachers' salaries. She thanked Mr. Carwell and Department staff for the update.

Update on Status and Progress of New Moyer Academy

Mr. Carwell reported that the Charter Office is meeting with the school on compliance issues and noted that the school's enrollment is still a concern. The Department's School Turn Around Unit is monitoring its focus school grant and requested a school improvement plan using the prior year performance data. The data is for the years the school operated under K-12 management and will be reviewed to assure that the benchmarks are aligned with the charter performance framework. The school is also in the charter modification process. The Board asked questions about the timeline and expressed its concerns on the school's performance which is the lowest in the state. The Board also asked what the plan is moving forward.

Mr. Carwell noted that the school is potential a candidate for formal review and that the Department is currently reviewing several aspects of the school's performance including their student performance, however this school year's DCAS scores will provide a better picture of their progress in that area. The school's education program is also being reviewed. The Board acknowledged that they do not want to wait to have a conversation late in the summer on Moyer. The Board asked that some form of conclusion on the Departments monitoring be presented before June. Dr. Gray noted that the enrollment is very low and impacts the school's economic viability; academically the school is at the bottom of the state. She asked what will be different for the students at Moyer noting the Board wants what is best for the students. Ms. Johnson provided the Board with the highlights of the Moyer updates the Board has received since December. Many times deliverables that have been requested by the Department, the submitted items are not satisfactory and do not answer questions. Ms. Johnson stated that this was one of the reasons the performance framework was established as it measures a school's performance and should be used for taking action. She stressed that the Board did not want to be in the same situation as it was with Pencader, which was placed on formal review four times and had three probations. The action of officially placing the school on Formal review, utilizing the metrics within the performance framework and a thorough current review of the school's compliance with all aspects of its charter should be done to address these concerns in a formal and transparent manner. The Board asked about the performance review of the school and was reminded that not all of the data has been run for the performance framework; however their academic framework was reviewed with members of the school in late November. The Board then requested that this data be run and presented to the Board. President Gray reiterated that the Board is requesting that the status of the students and their academic programs be presented to the Board within the next 45 days. The Board expressed that the comments made needed to be shared publicly.

Charter Schools Update

Mr. Carwell stated that the charter update was presented for the Board's information.

Professional Standards Board

Charles Michels, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board, presented the PSB items on the agenda.

1502 Professional Growth Salary Increments (For Publication)

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to amend regulation DE Admin. Code 1502 Professional Growth Salary Supplements. The regulation concerns the requirements for educators to attain salary increments, pursuant to 14 Del.C. §1305(p). It is necessary to amend this regulation in order to insure equity in the issuance of salary increments for the successful completion of a Master's Specialist Certificate.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to consent to the publication of amended regulation 14 Delaware Administrative Code 1502 Professional Growth Salary Supplements as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried with a roll call vote recorded as follows:

Ayes:

Nays:

Dr. Gray
Mr. Melendez
Mr. Heffernan
Mr. Hughes
Mrs. Rutt

PRAXIS II Test Approval (For Action)

The Professional Standards Board is seeking the approval of the State Board of Education for one new-to-Delaware Praxis II test to eventually replace an existing test: the specific test, passing scores within each elementary academic area and an effective date. The following Praxis II test is before the Board:

5031 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects

The Professional Standards Board is asking that the State Board approve Praxis II test 5031 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects to be effective September 1, 2013, with cut scores for the following subtests to be:

- Reading and Language Arts ~ 165 on a 100 to 200 scale
- Mathematics ~ 164 on a 100 to 200 scale
- Social Studies ~ 155 on a 100 to 200 scale
- Science ~ 159 on a 100 to 200 scale

The current Delaware approved Praxis test II test 0014/5014 Elementary Education: Content Knowledge with a cut score of 151 on a 100 to 200 scale shall remain effective for Elementary Teacher certification if taken prior to December 31, 2013.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the PRAXIS II test 5031 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects to be effective September 1, 2013 with the cut scores presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:

Nays:

Dr. Gray
Mr. Melendez
Mr. Heffernan
Mr. Hughes
Mrs. Rutt

Appeals and Reviews

E.R. v. Appoquinimink School District Board of Education 2013-02

Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education noted that this appeal was received and provided the Board with an update.

Information Items

Dr. Gray noted the information items listed on the Board's agenda.

Adjournment

There be no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary
and Secretary of Education

An audio of the entire meeting is available on the State Board's website at: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/ddoe/sbe/default.shtml>